



# Foreword

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Welcome to the *2013 Cotton Production Manual*. This publication serves as a key document to reference best cotton production practices, and as such, is an important resource for all cotton producers. In response to interest from growers this edition includes an 'Introduction To The Cotton Plant', so an understanding of cotton physiology can help to make your agronomic decisions. This edition of the manual has been divided into four sections.

- **Cotton For Profit** – In the quest to continue to maximise profitability, growers need to improve yield while managing input costs. This section outlines some key production issues for the 2013/14 crop, with a particular focus on input efficiencies.
- **Better Farming Future** – Profitability needs to be maintained into the future, and this section outlines key production issues that will not only impact on the current crop, but also on the future of the industry. The chapters in this issue cover the principles of managing long term.
- **Cotton For The Customer** – Australian cotton is viewed worldwide as an excellent fibre. Cotton quality is something that can be influenced throughout the season. This section covers management issues relating to quality, as well as chapters explaining post farm gate issues.
- **The Business Of Cotton** – This business of cotton can be complex. This section identifies issues across a range of topics including economics, marketing, finance, insurance, as well as the safety and management of the human resources involved in cotton.

This publication is one of a series of key products proudly brought to you by the cotton industry's Development and Delivery Team. This team is a Joint Venture partnership between Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Cotton Australia and Cotton Seed Distributors and is responsible for delivering a high quality research adoption program to the cotton industry to encourage the early and maximum uptake of new research and innovation, leading to higher economic performance with a reduced ecological footprint.

Thanks again to the researchers, industry and the Development and Delivery Team, who have contributed to reviewing and updating the 2013 Cotton Production Manual.

This resource is supported by additional information on best practice at [www.myBMP.com.au](http://www.myBMP.com.au).



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